

**JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION  
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE**

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying:  
Family Court, At-Large, Seat 2

1. NAME: Mr. William Gregory Seigler  
BUSINESS ADDRESS: Post Office Box 1852  
McCormick, SC 29835  
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (office): 864-852-9555
2. Date and Place of Birth: 1974; Augusta, GA
3. Are you a citizen of South Carolina? Yes.  
Have you been a resident of this state for at least the immediate past five years? Yes.
5. Family Status: Married on August 19, 2008, to Jennifer Price Seigler. Divorced on July 14, 2006, moving party: William Gregory Seigler, Family Court-Eighth Judicial Circuit, grounds: one year continuous separation, three children.
6. Have you served in the military?
7. List each college and law school you attended, including the dates of your attendance, the degrees you received, and if you left an institution without receiving a degree, the reason for your departure.
  - (a) The Citadel-Military College of SC, August 1992-May 1996  
BS-Cum Laude;
  - (b) Mississippi College School of Law, August 1996-May-1997;
  - (c) USC School of Law, August 1997-May 1999, JD.
8. List the states in which you have been admitted to practice law and the year of each admission. Also list any states in which you took the bar exam but were never admitted to the practice of law. If you took the bar exam more than once in any of the states listed, please indicate the number of times you took the exam in each state.

SC - 2000.
9. List the significant activities in which you took part during your attendance at college, graduate, and law school. Give the dates you were involved in these activities and list any leadership positions you held.

The Citadel

  - (a) November Company Clerk, August 1993-December 1993;
  - (b) CADRE-1993, 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Operations Clerk-January 1994-May 1994;
  - (c) November Company 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant-August 1994-May 1995;
  - (d) CADRE-1994, NCO Instructor 1994;
  - (e) Numerous intramural sports 1992-96;
  - (f) Inn of Court, Round Table.



10. Describe your continuing legal or judicial education during the past five years.
- | <u>Conference/CLE Name</u>             | <u>Date(s)</u> |
|--|----------------|
| (a) Annual Public Defender Conference  | 9/26/11;       |
| (b) Annual Public Defender Conference  | 9/27/10;       |
| (c) Annual Public Defender Conference  | 9/28/09;       |
| (d) Title I                            | 1/1/09;        |
| (e) Personal Injury Clients            | 1/28/09;       |
| (f) Estate Planning                    | 2/25/09;       |
| (g) Title Insurance I                  | 5/21/08;       |
| (h) Title Insurance II                 | 5/22/08;       |
| (i) Children's Issues in Family Court  | 4/17/06;       |
| (j) Municipal Court-Orientation School | 3/17/06;       |
| (k) How to Make the Right Decision     | 5/19/05.       |
11. Have you taught law-related courses or lectured at bar association conferences, educational institutions, or continuing legal or judicial education programs? No. If so, briefly describe each course or lecture.
- (a) I have lectured at the 1900 SC Bar Program "Bridge the Gap" for new lawyers;
- (b) I have made presentations on the topics of appellate advocacy and domestic relations to lawyers attending the 1900 Annual SC Bar Meeting.
12. List all published books and articles you have written and give citations and the dates of publication for each. N/A.
13. List all courts in which you have been admitted to practice and list the dates of your admission. Give the same information for administrative bodies that require a special admission to practice.
- (a) Admitted to practice before the State Courts of SC in 2000;
- (b) Also admitted to practice before the Federal District Court in 2000.
14. Describe chronologically your legal experience since graduation from law school and include a list of all law firms with which you have been associated. Describe the general character of your practice and divide it into periods with dates if its character has changed over the years.
- (a) Law Offices of W. Greg Seigler, 2000-10, Solo Practitioner with a general practice that focused on Family Law, but included Criminal law, Probate Law, Personal Injury, and Real Estate. During this time I was the attorney for the South Carolina Guardian ad Litem Program, Attorney for the Town of Troy (Greenwood County), and Attorney of the Town of Plum Branch (McCormick County);
- (b) Chief Municipal Court Judge for the Town of Calhoun Falls-part time, 2005-07;
- (c) Tri-County Public Defender (Edgefield, McCormick, and Saluda Counties), 2007-10-designated as part time. I represent all defendants charged with crimes determined to be indigent in all three counties, in General Sessions Court, Family Court and Magistrate/Municipal Court;

(d) Eleventh Circuit Public Defender's Office- Tri-County Public Defender, 2010-current, full time. I represent all defendants charged with crimes determined to be indigent in all three counties, in General Sessions Court, Family Court and Magistrate/Municipal Court.

14.(a) If you are a candidate for Family Court, please provide a brief written description of your experience within each of the following Family Court practice areas: divorce and equitable division of property, child custody, adoption, abuse and neglect, and juvenile justice. Include information about cases you have handled in each of these practice areas, or if you have not practiced in an area, describe how your background has prepared you to preside over such matters as a Family Court Judge.

I have literally represented domestic clients in every area of family law. While in private practice I handled hundreds of divorces that ranged from uncontested divorces with little or no assets with grounds for divorce being one year continuous separation, to long term marriages destroyed by adultery, substance abuse, or physical cruelty with assets valued in the millions. I have handled divorces, child custody cases, and others all pro bono for clients that were in abusive relationships or for whatever reason simply could not afford to pay me. I have also handled high profile divorces and custody cases where I earned a significant fee. I have handled many child custody cases, some of which were settled during the divorce proceedings, some that involved grandparent's rights, stepparent's rights, and some of which stemmed from an action being filed due to a significant change in circumstances with the change ranging from income, to residency issues, relocation issues, remarriage, exposing the children to an immoral environment etc. I have been involved in many adoption cases both as counsel for the adoptive parents, guardian ad litem for the child, and even as counsel for the biological parent contesting the adoption. For many years I was the attorney for the South Carolina Guardian ad Litem program. In that capacity I was involved in almost every abuse and neglect case in McCormick County. Prior to taking that position I was appointed to many clients who were defendants involved in abuse and neglect cases with the Department of Social Services whereby DSS was pursuing the termination of parental rights, emergency protective custody, parenting plans, or child support. I have been involved in abuse and neglect cases which ended in a wonderful manner with a child being adopted by a wonderful family, and I have been involved in cases that ended in tragedy. In private practice I was hired on a few cases that involved juveniles who were charged with crimes or otherwise considered delinquent, but it was not until I was appointed Tri-County Public Defender until I really became involved with juveniles. For the past five years I have represented approximately 99% of all juvenile cases in McCormick, Saluda, and Edgefield Counties. I am appointed to represent about 200 children per year who are charged with crimes ranging from shoplifting to attempted murder. I will admit that it is rewarding when you feel as though you were able to help a juvenile who is heading down the wrong path, but that

is not always the case. So, with all humility and respect, I have handled about every type of family court case imaginable.

15. What is your rating, if any, by any legal rating organization, such as, Best Lawyers, Chambers, Legal 500, Martindale-Hubbell, Who's Who Legal, Super Lawyers, etc.? If you are currently a member of the judiciary, list your last available rating, if any. Not rated.
16. What was the frequency of your court appearances during the last five years?
  - (a) federal: none;
  - (b) state: Almost every day between Magistrate Court, Family Court, and General Sessions Court.
17. What percentage of your practice involved civil, criminal, domestic, and other matters during the last five years?
  - (a) civil: 5%;
  - (b) criminal: 30%;
  - (c) domestic: 60%;
  - (d) other: 5%.
18. What percentage of your practice in trial court during the last five years involved matters that went to a jury, including those that settled prior to trial?
  - (a) jury: 40%;
  - (b) non-jury: 60%.

Did you most often serve as sole counsel, chief counsel, or associate counsel in these matters? Sole Counsel.

19. List five of the most significant litigated matters you have personally handled in either trial or appellate court or before a state or federal agency. Give citations if the cases were reported and describe why these matters were significant.
  - (a) George and Connie Gable vs David Kay - I represented the Gables, lifelong McCormick County residents, in a child custody case as grandparents of an eight year old boy whose mother had just died of brain cancer. The mother of course being their daughter. The biological father, Mr. Kay, had seen the child only a few times during the child's life. Upon the mother's death Mr. Kay tried to take the child from the grandparents. The Gable's were successful in gaining custody of the child where he still is today some 4 years later. Based on the current law in this state that was a significant achievement;
  - (b) Carl Thomas Wall vs Jamie Wall - this was divorce that involved one child, two step-children, and many assets resulting from the dissolution of a thirty year marriage where a divorce was sought on the grounds of habitual drunkenness. I represented the Husband in this matter. The Wife had been abusing drugs and alcohol for many years and ultimately vacated the marital home leaving him with nothing but the biological. My client was a life long friend of my father's. I was able to secure a favorable result of him and his child. This case was significant to me because I was able to help a life long friend of my father's, but also because I spent hundreds of hours on this case

without being paid one penny. That was often the case in a small rural county;

- (c) State vs Stephen Louis Barnes - this case is significant because Mr. Barnes was in Edgefield County jail awaiting trial for murder where the state was seeking the death penalty. While incarcerated he was charged with throwing bodily fluids on a jailer. I was appointed to represent him on that charge which he was ultimately convicted of after about eight hours of jury deliberation. It is significant because the state used this conviction during the penalty phase where Barnes ultimately received the death penalty.;
  - (d) State vs Thomas Hilliard - this case is significant because it involved two friends who were intoxicated who engaged in mutual combat that resulted in an accidental death of one individual. Mr. Hilliard was charged with murder and ultimately convicted of involuntary manslaughter and sentenced to ten years incarceration;
  - (e) Estate of James Strom - the case is significant to me because James was a lifelong successful friend of mine with a bright future, a beautiful wife, and two teenage children. They were all four killed in a plane crash in Greenwood County where the plane was flown by James. The investigation revealed the result of the crash was due to pilot error. I represented the estate; it was tragic. It was also important because you really had to have a good grasp of probate law and have a lot of experience in that area of law to properly disburse the estates, because James and his wife had wills that I had prepared years before, but they devised all of their assets to each other, and in the event they predeceased each other then to the children. However, the children were gone too.
20. List up to five civil appeals you have personally handled. Give the case name, the court, the date of decision, and the citation if the case was reported.
21. List up to five criminal appeals that you have personally handled. Give the case name, the court, the date of decision and the citation if the case was reported.
22. Have you ever held judicial office? If so, list the periods of your service, the courts involved, and whether you were elected or appointed. Describe the jurisdiction of each of the courts and note any limitations on the jurisdiction of each court.
- Chief Municipal Court Judge for the Town of Calhoun Falls, 2005-07, appointed by the mayor and town council. I presided over traffic court, signed warrants, and presided over pleas and trials for minor criminal offenses within the magistrate's jurisdiction. I had no civil jurisdiction as a municipal court judge.
23. If the answer to question 22 is yes, describe or list five of your most significant orders or opinions and give the citations if they were reported. Also list citations to any appellate review of these orders or opinions.

I never issued any type of opinion or order, except for sentencing.

24. Have you ever held public office other than judicial office?

The only position that I have held that could possibly be considered a public office is that of the Tri-County Public Defender described above.

25. List all employment you had while serving as a judge (whether full-time or part-time, contractual or at will, consulting or otherwise) other than elected judicial office. Specify your dates of employment, employer, major job responsibilities, and supervisor.

Law Offices of W. Greg Seigler 2005-07

26. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office? No.

27. Have you ever been engaged in any occupation, business, or profession other than the practice of law, teaching of law, or holding judicial or other public office?

I began working in my early teens. I worked at McCormick Building and Farm Supply loading seed, concrete, building supplies, etc. for customers. I worked as a stocker/bag boy at Gurley's Supermarket while in high school. While in college during the summers I worked as a lifeguard at Baker Creek State Park, Town of Ware Shoals, and Savannah Lakes Village. I also taught swimming lessons for underprivileged kids at John de la Howe School. I also worked for the US Army Corps of Engineers at Strom Thurmond Dam. Also, during law school I worked for The Garrett Law Firm in Greenwood, and O. Lee Sturkey, Attorney at Law in McCormick. All of the above mentioned employment was before being admitted to the bar.

28. Are you now an officer or director or involved in the management of any business enterprise? No.

29. A complete, current financial net worth statement was provided to the Commission.

30. Describe any financial arrangements or business relationships you have, or have had in the past, that could constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest in the position you seek. Explain how you would resolve any potential conflict of interest. None.

31. Have you ever been arrested, charged, or held by federal, state, or other law enforcement authorities for violation or for suspicion of violation of any federal law or regulation, state law or regulation, or county or municipal law, regulation, or ordinance, or any other law, including another country's law? No.

32. Have you, to your knowledge, ever been under federal, state, or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute? No.

33. Has a tax lien or other collection procedure ever been instituted against you by federal, state, or local authorities? Have you ever defaulted on a student loan? Have you ever filed for bankruptcy? No.

34. Have you ever been sued, either personally or professionally, that is, have you ever been named as defendant or respondent in any court of law? If so, give

details, including but not limited to dates, and resolution. In 2011, I was sued by Stephen Louise Barnes, who is an inmate on SC's death row. As Tri-County Public Defender, I represented him in a trial (referenced above) in Egdefield County. He sued me claiming that I did not provide him with all of the state's discovery. The case was removed to federal court and Mr. Barnes' claim against me was dismissed with prejudice.

I was the Plaintiff in a suit in 2004 . I was not the Defendant or Respondent, but I reveal the action to the Commission out of caution. In 2004, I hired counsel, namely Samuel W. Outten, of Leatherwood Walker Todd and Mann, of Greenville, now with Womble Carlisle at (864) 255-5421. He filed suit on my behalf against Bill Boyd Realty, Textron Financial, et al. We sought relief in the form of a declaratory judgment in regards to the validity an opinion issued by my law firm for a subsidiary of Textron Financial. The opinion basically stated that the subsidiary was duly organized and good standing, certain loan documents were legal and binding, and that it was in full compliance with all local, state, and federal laws. The case was ultimately removed to Federal Court and settled in order to avoid unnecessary attorney's fees and costs. There were no judgments filed against any party involved.

36. Have you ever been investigated by the Department of Social Services? Has your name ever been enrolled on the Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect? No.
37. If you are in private practice, are you covered by malpractice insurance and, if so, how long have you carried malpractice insurance? If applicable, have you ever been covered by a tail policy? If so, please explain when you were covered by a tail policy.

I am not in private practice, but I am currently an employee of the Eleventh Circuit Public Defender's Office. I am covered by its malpractice insurance. I did purchase a tail policy when I closed my private practice in 2010. It was a simple tail policy to cover any claims filed within one year of the cancellation of my professional liability insurance.

38. Are you now or have you ever been employed as a "lobbyist," as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(13), or have you acted in the capacity of a "lobbyist's principal," as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(14)? No.
39. Since filing with the Commission your letter of intent to run for judicial office, have you accepted lodging, transportation, entertainment, food, meals, beverages, money, or any other thing of value as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(1) from a lobbyist or lobbyist's principal? If so, please specify the item or items you received, the date of receipt, and the lobbyist or lobbyist's principal involved. No.
40. S.C. Code § 8-13-700 provides, in part, that "[n]o public official, public member, or public employee may knowingly use his official office, membership, or employment to obtain an economic interest for himself, a member of his immediate family, an individual with whom he is associated, or a business with which he is associated." Please detail any knowledge you

- have of any formal charges or informal allegations against you or any other candidate for violations of these provisions. None.
41. S.C. Code § 8-13-765 provides, in part, that “[n]o person may use government personnel, equipment, materials, or an office building in an election campaign.” Please detail any knowledge you have of any formal charges or informal allegations against you or any other candidate for violations of these provisions. None.
  42. Itemize (by amount, type, and date) all expenditures, other than those for travel and room and board, made by you, or on your behalf in furtherance of your candidacy for the position you seek. None.
  43. List the amount and recipient of all contributions made by you or on your behalf to members of the General Assembly since the announcement of your intent to seek election to a judgeship. None.
  44. Have you directly or indirectly requested the pledge of any member of the General Assembly as to your election for the position for which you are being screened? Have you received the assurance of any public official or public employee that they will seek the pledge of any member of the General Assembly as to your election for the position for which you are being screened? No.
  45. Have you requested a friend or colleague to contact members of the General Assembly on your behalf? If so, give details. Are you aware of any friends or colleagues contacting members of the General Assembly on your behalf? No.
  46. Have you or has anyone acting on your behalf solicited or collected funds to aid in the promotion of your candidacy? If so, please specify the amount, solicitor, donor, and date of the solicitation. No.
  47. Have you or has anyone acting on your behalf contacted members of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission about your candidacy or intention to become a candidate? No.
  48. List all bar associations and professional organizations of which you are a member and give the titles and dates of any offices you have held in such groups.
    - (a) SC Bar, past family law division;
    - (b) McCormick County Bar President, 2003-current;
    - (c) SC Trial Lawyers Association-past member;
    - (d) SC Summary Court Judges Association-past member.
  49. List all civic, charitable, educational, social, and fraternal organizations of which you are or have been a member during the past five years and include any offices held in such a group, any professional honors, awards, or other forms of recognition received and not listed elsewhere.
    - (a) The Citadel Alumni Association;
    - (b) Grand Lodge of Ancient Freemasons of SC-Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, and Steward of Mine Lodge Number 117, McCormick, SC;
    - (c) Shriner- Jamil Temple, Red Fez Shrine Club, McCormick, SC;

- (d) National Rifle Association (NRA)-life member;
  - (e) National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF)-member;
  - (f) SC Wildlife Endowment;
  - (g) McCormick Rotary-past member;
  - (h) Bethany Baptist Church.
50. Provide any other information that may reflect positively or negatively on your candidacy, or which you believe should be disclosed in connection with consideration of you for nomination for the position you seek.

As a child I was very fortunate to have been reared in an environment that instilled moral values and demanded discipline. I applied that type of raising to each and every life goal and objective. At The Citadel the values and discipline that I learned as an adolescent were fine tuned. I have applied the lessons and values learned to my every day life as well as my law practice. I feel that my experience in every aspect of family law provides me with tools and knowledge necessary to be family court judge. I also feel that as a husband and a father of three sons coupled with my legal experience, I have the skills to deal with the unique are of domestic law. I also believe that I possess the appropriate perspective and temperament for this position. If given the opportunity I will serve the citizens of this great state with honor and integrity.

51. References:

- (a) Laurie Solesby  
BB&T Bank  
200 E. Augusta Street  
McCormick, SC 29835  
864-852-2531
- (b) Honorable C. David Sawyer, Jr.  
110 S. Main Street  
Saluda, SC 29138  
864-445-4544
- (c) Greg W. Anderson  
PO Box 507  
Edgefield, SC 29824  
803-637-7034
- (d) Joseph E. Collier, Jr.  
PO Box 1236  
McCormick, SC 29835  
864-993-5695
- (e) David M. Stumbo  
1629 HWY 72 Bypass  
Greenwood, SC 29649  
803-422-2781

YOUR SIGNATURE WILL BE HELD TO CONSTITUTE A WAIVER OF THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF ANY PROCEEDING BEFORE A GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE OR ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING YOUR CREDIT.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT MY ANSWERS ARE TRUE AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

Signature: William Gregory Seigler

Date: August 3, 2012